

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK



ORGANIZATION NOTES

EIGHT self-governing societies of English nurses, numbering in all at least two thousand members, were represented in the Provisional Council which shared in the nurses' meetings at Berlin. This Provisional Committee has agreed that as soon as the affiliated leagues or societies shall show an inclusive membership of five thousand nurses it will be reasonable and proper to unite them definitely into a National Council of Nurses, and so bring them into the International.

Meanwhile another league, that of the Parish of Nottingham, has been formed with eighty members, and has an excellent journal.

The *Hospital*, which assumes to have something to say on nursing matters, is struck with consternation at the possibility of a national council formed as above suggested, speaks of not allowing it, believes the American nurses are deluded, and calls vainly for somebody else to arise and do something—all of which is very good for the cause of voluntary association and helps the English nurses considerably. The new league also has a Recreation Committee, an idea which we commend again to dull associations.

THE SOCIETY FOR REGISTRATION

THE last report of this society contains much that is interesting. A committee has been formed in Scotland to work for State registration, and resolutions favorable to registration have been passed in public meetings in Scotland and in Ireland. The Irish Nurses' Association, as is well known, has been for some time active in this work. The society now numbers one thousand two hundred and eighty-one members, all of whom pay their dues. The report shows an enormous amount of work done with distinction and thoroughness. So far the society has not committed one mistake, and its entire record is one of untiring propaganda and definite construction. As usual, the burden of the work has been carried by a small group of persons, willing burden-bearers, among

whom the secretary, Mrs. Fenwick, and Miss Breay have shouldered tasks which are simply amazing. Though the opposition has no intelligent arguments, it has a great deal of "influence" and dead weight, and fighting it has been like pulling out roots.

THE ROYAL VICTORIAN TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION

THIS Australian association, which has brought about a voluntary system of registration, and has organized all the hospitals, is now working out an acceptable scheme for a future course for matrons which shall fit the matrons for their work of bringing up the general standard of pupil nurses' education.

LETTER

THREE weeks, or nearly three, in London is not nearly enough to see all there is to see in nursing affairs, yet one can see a good deal in that time, and I rather think our delegates to Berlin did not have time, when they were in London, to go about to the different club-houses or nurses' homes as much as I did, though I by no means saw all I could have seen or would have liked to see. My first visit was to Miss Wood, whose strong and capable personality was so striking at our Buffalo meeting. I found her looking as well, as vigorous, and as full of work as ever. I had a nice tea-drinking visit with her and then inspected the Hostel, which I was most anxious to see. I felt certain that it was just what we very much need at home, in each large city, and after seeing it I was more convinced than ever. It is a *hotel* for nurses, not a club-house, and it is as unreservedly open to all nurses of good standing as any good hotel is open to the public. In another month, when our nurses have come back from their summer vacations, I hope to give a detailed account of it, as I hope it may start something of the kind at home. It is a solid, dividend-paying success. Other very beautiful—almost even luxurious—nurses' homes that I saw were the Nurses' Coöperation and the St. Andrews House. They are more like some of our club-houses at home, and are not so instructive from the business side as the Hostel is. St. Andrew's House is, I understand, the property of a lady who is not a nurse, and who conducts it also rather on the lines of a private hotel. At least it is sometimes possible for a nurse from other places to get a room there. But I imagine it is rather exclusive. I took luncheon there with Miss Amy Hughes, who is deeply absorbed in her work of supervision